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of the equally large male *Ursus spelæus*, and consequently the specific, and not merely sexual, distinction of *U. priscus*; but at the same time, the Irish crania show that the character of the forehead alluded to in my 'British Fossil Mammalia,' p. 83, is not constant, and not good for a specific difference with *Ursus arctos*. To conclude, then, as at present informed, I should refer your Irish skulls to *Ursus arctos*; and the least degenerated representative of that species now living, viz., the great black bear, or very dark brown variety of the Scandinavian wilds, is that which comes closest to the old Irish bears. Whether this respectable carnivore continued to exist after the slaughter of the last megaceros will be shown by the precise bed in which the specimens were found. I should like to know the authority, if any, for their derivation, from peat bog, and not from shell marl, if the case be so.

"Ever your's,

(Signed)

"R. OWEN."

Mr. Ball was of opinion, from examination of the original bear skulls, that they were not in the peat, but in the marl below it, where he believed all the heads of the megaceros, probably fifty, which he had closely inspected, were found. In no case was peat to be discovered in the cavities, while in many marl was present. He expressed his gratification in finding that his own views were supported by those of Professor Owen, from whom, on this and other occasions, he received kind aid. He also expressed obligations to the Earl of Enniskillen, Mr. Baker, Mr. Cooke, and Mr. Warren; and concluded by moving the thanks of the Academy to Mr. Abraham Whyte Baker, Sen., for his kindness in presenting casts of his valuable specimens to its museum of antiquities.

Colonel H. D. Jones presented tables of the fall of rain, with the levels of the Shannon and state of the wind, observed

and recorded at Athlone, by John Long, Esq., during a period of four years.

The Tables (see Appendix, No. VI.) are compiled from *daily* observations. The columns are arranged to show, in monthly periods, the various fluctuations in the fall of rain, with the duration and variable nature of the dry and wet periods, also the greatest amount of continuous fall of rain, as well as the greatest daily fall, thus presenting an exact criterion of the humidity and variable nature of the climate. The rise and fall of the Shannon is also shewn, with its various fluctuations; also the fluctuations of the wind, and its continuance at the various points. A general abstract table for the whole is given, and an average struck for the four years. The daily observations from which these tables are compiled, having been taken in the central district of Ireland, where no similar observations appear to have been recorded, may perhaps be considered as giving them increased value. The district is remote from the influence of hills or mountains, and lies about central in the great flat limestone field of Ireland, extending from Dublin to Galway.

Colonel Jones suggested that the Council should draw up instructions for parties employed by the Board of Works, in different parts of Ireland; explaining what objects of scientific and antiquarian interest ought to be noticed and preserved by them.

He proposed to bring the subject before the Board of Works, in the hopes that their officers might be enabled to make meteorological observations of value, or to secure for the Museum of the Academy antiquities worthy of preservation.

Sir William Betham read a note from Mr. William F. Wakeman, relating to the remains of the market cross of Navan.